



CITY OF LONDON
FREEMEN'S SCHOOL

Economics

Head of Department: [Mrs P Brooks](#)

Examination Board: [AOA](#)

Entry requirements: GCSE mathematics grade A; GCSE English grade A

Economics is the study of the science of human behaviour, in relation to the real choices that people make in the world around them. In the A-level course students will learn about the way in which individuals and organisations choose to use their scarce resources, the role of markets for goods and services, and how governments intervene to influence behaviour.

The course encourages students to consider current political and economic events and to analyse their impact. It enables students to develop a critical approach, through rational and logical argument of both sides of a case – they must be prepared to enter into debate and to argue their point of view.

AS-level course

Students examine basic models of demand for, and supply of, goods and services, and how prices are set in different markets. They consider government intervention in those markets, and the overall performance of the UK economy and government economic policy, in relation to taxation, interest rates and spending. Study will be set in the context of current economic developments and global markets.

A2-level course

Students build upon the content introduced at AS-level, but more complex economic models are included. Students revisit many of the problems of choice, using new and more sophisticated methods of analysis. They study business economics and the distribution of income, the national and international economy, with a focus on the EU and globalisation issues. They may choose to extend their studies by attending a series of talks and lectures, by entering the Royal Economic Society's 'Young Economist of the Year' competition, and by taking part in the Bank of England's 'Target 2.0' inflation rate challenge.

Skills required and gained

A main requirement is an interest in the world outside school and in current affairs. It is not necessary to study mathematics at A-level, but students should have a very good pass in GCSE mathematics, be confident interpreting a range of data, and also comfortable with writing extended essay answers to questions. By the end of the course students will have developed essay writing skills and powers of logical argument, and recognise how to present findings and conclusions in the form of a structured report. This is a course which will help develop skills which will be valuable throughout their life.

Course combinations

Economics can be successfully combined with almost any other A-level subject. It is an excellent addition to the sciences as it demonstrates different skills and interests, and is also particularly useful if studied alongside government and politics, geography, languages or mathematics. Students may not choose to study both economics and business studies, and should consult their tutors as to which of the two might best suit their skills and career plans.

Future courses and careers

Those who have studied economics can expect to be welcomed on to any degree course, as they will demonstrate an interest in current events as well as the acquisition of a broad range of academic skills. The subject is particularly valuable in the areas of law, finance, business, journalism, politics, and the social sciences and languages, and will be useful for anyone who hopes to work abroad in the future. Over half of our students progress to economics, management or finance degrees.